

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the final Action, claims 1-7 and 9-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. In view of the rejection, claim 1 has been amended.

In paragraph 6 of the final Action, claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. in view of Sugimoto et al., Udagawa and Okazaki et al.

In view of the rejection, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 4, 6 and 7, and claims 2-13 have been cancelled. The amendment does not introduce new issue. Claim 1 is now directed to the structure shown in Fig. 11.

In Yoshida et al., Figs. 24 and 25 were referred to, wherein a coating 71 is formed around and spaced from a bore 62, and a second coating 73 is formed on a bead 67 around a bore 64. Although the Examiner did not mention, the bead 67 around the bore 64 is a full bead, and a similar full bead 66 surrounds the bore 62. Thus, the beads 66, 67 and the coatings 71, 73 seal around the bores 62, 63.

In regard to Sugimoto et al., since Yoshida et al. does not have a folded portion, Sugimoto et al. was referred to, wherein a folded portion 37 is formed around a cylinder bore 3 in Fig. 4.

In regard to Udagawa, in paragraph 5 of the Action, it was held that a gasket has a first coating 15 near a bore and a second coating 16 near a fluid hole, wherein the second coating is made thinner than the first coating. However, the coatings 15, 16 referred to by the Examiner are thermal sprayed layers formed by gas or plasma spraying (column 3, lines 18-19). Since the thermal sprayed layers are entirely different from the paint coating used in the invention in structure and characteristics, Udagawa can not be used in rejecting the paint coatings.

In regard to Okazaki et al., a gasket has a bore, a fluid bore 3, and a half bead 6 around the fluid bore to provide a higher

surface pressure adjusting function. The gasket of Okazaki et al. further includes a bead 5 around a combustion chamber opening 2.

In case the above cited references are combined as suggested by the Examiner, the folded portion as disclosed in Sugimoto et al. may be situated around the bore 62 of Yoshida et al. However, it is not disclosed that the coating is located outside the folded portion without overlapping thereto, different from claim 1 of the invention. What is disclosed in Yoshida et al. is that the coating 71 is located slightly away from the bore 62. There is no suggestion that the coating 71 is located outside the folded portion without overlapping thereto.

In regard to Udagawa, as explained above, the coatings 15, 16 referred to by the Examiner are thermal sprayed layers, not the paint coatings used in the invention, but the thicknesses of the coatings 71, 73 in Yoshida et al. may be changed in view of Udagawa, as suggested by the Examiner. Similarly, the half bead of Okazaki et al. may be used instead of the full bead 67 of Yoshida et al., as suggested by the Examiner.

When the four cited references are combined as stated by the Examiner, it is possible to form a gasket having the folded portion, the first and second paint coatings, and the half bead with the inner and outer sides. However, the specific relations of the surface pressures formed on the folded portion, the first and second paint coatings and the half bead with the inner and outer portions, as recited in claim 1, are not suggested by the cited references.

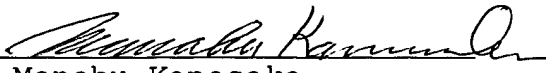
In claim 1, it is specified that when the gasket is tightened, surface pressures on the gasket are arranged such that the folded portion is greater than the inner portion; the inner portion is greater than the first paint coating; and the first paint coating is greater than the outer portion. In claim 1, the folded portion, the first and second paint coatings and the half bead with the

inner and outer portions are arranged to have the specific surface pressured on the gasket. Accordingly, the gasket can be securely sealed. Claim 1 is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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